

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MUSCAT 00474 190645Z

15

ACTION IO-10

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TAGS: EAID, UNDP, MU

SUBJECT: CERP 008 - EVALUATION OF UN ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

REF: A. STATE 64907

B. MUSCAT 444 (NOTAL)

C. MUSCAT A-61, NOV. 28, 1974 (NOTAL)

MONTREAL FOR ICAO; PARIS FOR UNESCO; ROME FOR FODAG;

VIENNA FOR IAEA AND UNIDO

AS NOTED MUSCAT REFTEL, WE BELIEVE MUSCAT REFAIR ANSWERS
NEARLY ALL QUESTIONS RAISED AND STILL REPRESENTS REASONABLY
ACCURATE AND TIMELY EVALUATION. HOWEVER, WE WOULD ADD
FOLLOWING OBSERVATIONS (KEYED TO LETTERED PARAGRAPHS
STATE REFTEL):

A. ROLE OF UNDP IN UN DEVELOPMENT SYSTEM - DEPUTY UNDP
RESIDENT REP HERE REPORTS ALL PROGRAMS CHanneled THROUGH HIS
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PAGE 02 MUSCAT 00474 190645Z

OFFICE EXCEPT ISOLATED AND LIMITED WHP PROJECTS. IBRD

PROJECTS COORDINATED WITHIN LIMITATIONS NOTED REPAIR. UNICEF ACTIVITIES SO FAR LIMITED TO PARTICIPATION IN IPF-FUNDED HOUSEHOLD AND CHILD WELFARE STUDY AND DIRECTLY RELATED COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROJECT. HOWEVER, DIRECT UNICEF CONTRIBUTION UNDER CONSIDERATION FOR SALARY SUPPLEMENTS FOR OMANI COUNTERPARTS PARTICIPATING IN UNDP EDUCATION-RELATED PROJECTS.

C. ROLE OF RESIDENT REP VIS-A-VIS OTHER UN SYSTEM ACTIVITIES - APPEARS TO BE LIMITED TO DISTRIBUTION OF DOCUMENTS AND ACTING AS RELAY POINT FOR COMMUNICATIONS WITH OMAN GOV. IF OTHER PROGRAMS STARTED, BELIEVE OFFICE OF RESREP WILL BE EQUIPPED TO HANDLE, AS BOTH STAFF AND FACILITY ENLARGEMENTS CONTEMPLATED IN NEAR FUTURE.

D. COUNTRY PROGRAM REVIEW - BELIEVE PROGRAM REVIEW COMPLETED JANUARY 1975 WAS USEFUL IN HIGHLIGHTING POTENTIAL PROBLEM AREAS IN WHAT IS STILL VERY NEW PROGRAM. UNDP PERSONNEL APPEAR TO BE VERY AWARE OF CRITICISMS MADE BY BOTH HOST GOVERNMENT AND OTHER DONOR COUNTRIES AND ARE STRIVING TO AVOID OR ELIMINATE PROBLEMS. FORMAL COORDINATION OF UN PROGRAM WITH DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL HASN'T YET BEEN INITIATED AS COUNCIL ONLY RECENTLY HAS ASSUMED RESPONSIBILITIES. HOWEVER, THIS SHOULD OCCUR WITHIN NEXT FOUR TO SIX WEEKS, AND WE CONTINUE TO BELIEVE THIS CHANGE WILL AFFORD MUCH GREATER FOCUS AND SET OF PRIORITIES FOR COUNTRY PROGRAM.

E. PROJECT EVALUATION - TRIPARTITE REVIEW HAS ONLY BEEN UNDERTAKEN WITH RESPECT TO TWO PROJECTS, ALBEIT THESE ARE AMONG LARGEST IN COUNTRY PROGRAM, I.E. TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND PORT MANAGEMENT. EXECUTING AGENCY WASN'T REPRESENTED IN ALL SESSIONS THIS REVIEW, THOUGH VIEWPOINT WAS PRESENTED BY RESIDENT REP. RES REP STATES OMANI PARTICIPATION IN BOTH REVIEWS WAS LIVELY, THOUGH HE ASCRIBES THIS TO WIDE INTEREST IN THESE PARTICULAR PROJECTS. HE OBSERVES IN CONFIDENCE THAT OMANGOV LESS LIKELY TO CONTRIBUTE ON OTHER REVIEWS SINCE THEY STILL LEARNING THEIR RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES IN COUNTRY PROGRAMMING PROCESS.

H. WOMEN IN DEVELOPMENT - UNDP HAS NAMED PARTICIPANT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 MUSCAT 00474 190645Z

IN COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROJECT AS COORDINATOR FOR IWY ACTIVITIES WITH SPECIFIC PROJECTS TO BE FORMULATED ON HER ARRIVAL IN MAY 1975. ALSO, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROJECT ITSELF MAY BE VIEWED AS SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTION TO ROLE OF WOMEN IN DEVELOPMENT AS IT CONTINUES TO FOCUS PREPARATORY STUDIES ON KEY IMPORTANCE OF WOMEN IN NUTRITION, HEALTH, PRESCHOOL EDUCATION AND CERTAIN ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES.
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